



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,283	10/25/2005	Nicolas Le Bars	0513-I156	3258
466	7590	01/28/2008	EXAMINER	
YOUNG & THOMPSON			BOCHNA, DAVID	
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2ND FLOOR			3679	
ARLINGTON, VA 22202			MAIL DATE	
			01/28/2008	
			DELIVERY MODE	
			PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/554,283	Applicant(s) LE BARS, NICOLAS
	Examiner David E. Bochna	Art Unit 3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 15-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 15-17, 19, 22, 23 and 25-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 18, 20, 21 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/1648)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/25/05
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 15-17, 19, 22, 25, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hutchings.

In regard to claim 15, Hutchings discloses an instantaneous coupling device comprising a tubular body A and means for retaining a pipe end in leak tight manner in the body, said means comprising a retaining member 5 arranged to receive the pipe end and cam means 4 interposed between the body and the retaining member to bring the retaining member from a release state in which it releases the pipe end to a grip state in which it grips the pipe end when the retaining member is moved axially in the body from a first position to a second position, wherein the retaining member comprises two independent jaws 5 mounted in the body to slide between the two above-mentioned positions, and wherein the cam means comprise two transverse studs 4 secured to the jaws or to the body to co-operate in sliding with side faces 3 secured to the body or the jaws and that are inclined relative to the sliding direction.

In regard to claim 16, wherein each transverse stud 4 projects outwards from one of the jaws 5 and wherein the side faces 3 belong to the body 5.

In regard to claim 17, wherein the side faces 3 are defined in a hole 3 formed transversely through the body.

In regard to claim 19, wherein, when the jaws 5 are in the second position, the studs 4 leave a rear empty space in the hole 3 remote from the first position.

In regard to claim 22, wherein the jaws 5 include means A for securing them axially to each other.

In regard to claim 25, wherein the jaws 5 are provided internally with teeth 8 for biting into an outside surface of the pipe end.

In regard to claim 27, including angular indexing means 3, 4 for indexing the angular position of the retaining member 5 relative to the body A.

In regard to claim 28, including means 8 for preventing the pipe end from turning relative to the retaining member 5.

3. Claims 15-17, 19, 22-23 and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jensen.

In regard to claim 15, Jensen discloses an instantaneous coupling device comprising a tubular body 12 and means for retaining a pipe end 25 in leak tight manner in the body, said means comprising a retaining member 70 arranged to receive the pipe end and cam means 52 interposed between the body and the retaining member to bring the retaining member from a release state in which it releases the pipe end to a grip state in which it grips the pipe end when the retaining member 70 is moved axially in the body 12 from a first position to a second position, wherein the retaining member 70 comprises two independent jaws 42 mounted in the body to slide between the two above-mentioned positions, and wherein the cam means comprise two transverse studs 44 secured to the jaws or to the body to co-operate in sliding with side faces 52 secured to the body or the jaws and that are inclined relative to the sliding direction.

In regard to claim 16, wherein each transverse stud 44 projects outwards from one of the jaws 42 and wherein the side faces 50 belong to the body 12.

In regard to claim 17, wherein the side faces 50 are defined in a hole formed transversely through the body 12.

In regard to claim 19, wherein, when the jaws 42 are in the second position, the studs 44 leave a rear empty space in the hole 50 remote from the first position.

In regard to claim 22, wherein the jaws 42 include means 70 for securing them axially to each other.

In regard to claim 23, wherein the axial securing means 70 comprise complementary axial abutment means 70 secured to each of the jaws, said abutment means being arranged to leave the jaws 42 free to slide apart from and towards each other.

In regard to claim 25, wherein the jaws 42 are provided internally with teeth for biting into an outside surface of the pipe end.

In regard to claim 26, wherein at least one of the jaws 42, when in its second position, possesses an end 40 that projects from the body 12.

In regard to claim 27, including angular indexing means 44, 50 for indexing the angular position of the retaining member 42 relative to the body 12.

In regard to claim 28, including means 42 for preventing the pipe end 25 from turning relative to the retaining member 42.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 18, 20-21 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Neustadtl, LeQuere, McFarland et al., Schwarz et al., Gruber et al. and Helm all disclose similar couplings common in the art.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David E. Bochna/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679